

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
UNIVERSITY PARK
LOS ANGELES 7

December 10, 1957

Dr. J. Lederberg, Chairman
Department of Medical Genetics
Genetics Building
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Lederberg:

Quite by coincidence we had just prepared a batch of *Spirillum* cultures to send to someone else and there were some extras conveniently available. Under separate cover you will receive cultures of *S. anulus* and *S. serpens*. The *anulus* is the most conspicuous but it is somewhat unreliable in its growth responses. I would suggest the *serpens* from the point of view of ease of culture if it fits the rest of the requirements. I doubt that *S. lunatum* would be satisfactory for your purposes since it should be cultured in sea water. Perhaps the easiest of all the *Spirillum* to grow is *iterosonii*; however, this one is quite small and might not fit into the "conspicuous" category. *S. volutans* would be ideal from the point of view of motility and conspicuousness; unfortunately, although I succeeded in getting it in pure culture last Spring while at Pacific Grove, I still do not understand its growth requirements and the conditions of culture are such that very little can be done with it experimentally.

Our own work with *S. lunatum* has reached the critical stage. We have a group of marked strains and are attempting to demonstrate recombination. Our first experiments have been negative, but since we are just starting on this phase we are not discouraged.

I am enclosing two reprints on the *Spirillum*. If you have any questions on culturing that are not answered in the, do not hesitate to drop me a line.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,



S. C. Rittenberg
Professor
Department of Bacteriology

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